submergence or *azhukichetham* in seasons of flood than even scarcity of water and in these cases no remission of tax was granted by Government. As this worked considerable hardship, he requested that *karivu* and *azhukichetham* might be treated on the same basis by Government and remissions allowed in both cases alike.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (*Tovala*) supported him.

Reply.—What the members want is that the procedure obtaining in respect of Karivezhuthu should be made applicable to failure of crops due to submergence as well. Cases of submergence are very rare in these parts, where the ordinary complaint is want of sufficient water-supply. Unlike in the matter of karivu, no remission is allowed when individual fields are damaged by submergence. But where a whole *puravu* fails on this account, a special enquiry is made on the application of the ryots concerned and remission granted under the special sanction of Government. Further relief, if called for, will be given in individual cases on the recommendation of the Peishkar.

17. That the procedure obtaining at present in regard to Karivezhuthu is a source of delay, hardship and loss to the ryots.

Mr. N. Velayudhaperumal Pillai (*Agastisvaram*) stated that when a complaint about failure of crops was submitted to the Revenue authorities it took a long time for them to go to the spot and inspect the lands and it was a matter of hardship that till then the ryots had to keep the stalks on the lands without removing them. Although there is a rule that the inspection should be completed within 7 days after receipt of complaint, this was never observed in practice and hence in many cases the ryots lost the benefit of the remission rules. The member prayed that a period might be fixed within which the revenue officers should finish their inspection.

Reply.—This question was raised last year. In his reply the Dewan said that orders would issue for the timely inspection of crops by village officers. Some proposals are before Government for modifying the existing rules. They will receive consideration and orders will be passed.

18. Remission of tax in the Northern Division in cases of failure of crops for want of water.

Mr. K. Karunakaran Pillai (*Parur*) stated that remission on

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

account of Karivu was granted to the people of South Travancore, but no relief was given to the ryots of the Northern Division on that account. He prayed that all the Divisions might be treated alike in this respect.

Reply.—This is the converse of subject No. 16. Relief will however be given in individual cases on the recommendation of the Peishkar.

19. Postponement of collection of tax to the succeeding year in cases of failure of crops in Punja lands.

Mr. Krishnan Narayanan (*Ampalapuzha*) said that owing to the influx of water, the Kuttanad ryots had very often to suffer from failure of crops and that no concession was given to them by Government on such occasions as in the Southern Division where remission on account of want of water-supply was freely allowed. The member requested that if Government could not find their way to grant wholesale remission in these cases, an order might be passed by which the tax might be realised at least in the succeeding year.

Reply.—The postponement of collection of tax will be considered in individual cases on the recommendation of the Peishkar. No general rule can be passed.

20. Reduction of tax in localities affected by cocoanut blight.

Mr. Luke Koshi Vydian (*Karunagapalli*) said that in Karunagapalli, Mavelikara and adjoining taluks cocoanut trees had become subject to some disease of a grave and malignant type whose cause or cure it was not in the power of the ryots to discover. He prayed that in view of the very poor yield from these trees during the past few years the tax on them might be reduced and the services of an expert engaged to find out the true cause of the blight and to remedy the same.

Mr. Kesavan Padmanabhan (*Mavelikara*) *and Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai and Mr. K. Kochu Thomman* (*Chengannur*) dwelt on the acute condition of the disease in their taluks.

Reply.—It has come to the notice of Government that in many taluks this disease exists and has been prevailing for some time. Some endeavours were made to trace the cause of the blight but without success. It is difficult to get down a special officer thoroughly conversant with the matter. As the taluks have been settled, no relief by way of reduction of tax can be granted. As regards the blight, the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly